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COUNTRY Korea

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Evacuation of Kosong-gun

1. By November 1951 North Korean government authorities had instructed some residents of Kosong-gun (128-17, 38-42) (DT-3883) to move to the Chongp'yong (127-22, 39-48) (CV-6006) area because of tactical considerations and the shortage of rice. Residents affected by the order included families of persons who had fled to South Korea, other persons suspected of anti-government sympathies, and persons of the lower middle class.¹ These persons were forced to sell any rice on hand at the price of 700 won for each small mal. They were able to sell only a part and the Kosong-gun people's committee confiscated the rest.
2. By 20 November 220 refugees, organized into units of 50 persons to 60 persons, had assembled at the Singe Temple. Each person was given 300 grams of meal each day at the temple and each day of the month-long journey to Chongp'yong. During the trip many persons suffered from dengue fever, which had been widespread throughout North Korea since June 1951, and from malnutrition.

Education in Kosong-gun

3. At the start of the Korean war North Korean government authorities ordered the school year closed at the end of June rather than the middle of July to permit students above the middle school level to instruct illiterate persons throughout North Korea. North Korean Labor Party members were used as instructors in those areas of South Korea which became occupied by the North Koreans. These plans were disrupted by the heavy North Korean casualties and the necessity of total male mobilization.

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4. When the government realized that the war would be prolonged, teachers began to be discharged from the army under an order of the Ministry of Education dated 20 June 1951.
5. On 27 October 1951 at a meeting of approximately 50 educators at Kosong-gun, the director of the North Kangwon Provincial People's Committee noted that the Ministry of Education had claimed on 20 May 1951 that 96 percent of the five-year education plan, inaugurated in 1948, and 120 percent of the plan's adult education objectives had been achieved. The speaker also stated that ROK education programs on all levels were inoperative.
6. On 1 November 1951 200 students at the Kosong-gun Middle School, one-half way up a hill 4 kilometers northeast of the Kosong-gun railway station, were receiving instruction on a particular day of the week depending upon the class of which each student was a member. The shortage of teachers, inadequate classroom space, and United Nations' air attacks compelled use of this rotation system. The school was open between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. each day. Courses taught at the school included literature, history, geography, physics, chemistry, physiology, algebra, geometry, and the Russian language. Because of military conscription and the escape of many students to South Korea, 75 percent of the students were girls. Seventy percent of the students were children of North Korean Labor Party members. Eighty percent of the registered male students were attending classes regularly. Five hundred students were enrolled at the school before the start of the Korean war.
7. Principals of Kosong-gun primary schools received 1,600 won to 1,900 won monthly; primary school teachers, 1,100 won to 1,400 won monthly; middle school directors, 2,100 won monthly; middle school teachers, 1,300 won to 1,600 won monthly; masters of a people's school, 1,300 won to 1,500 won monthly; and teachers at a people's school, 2,900 won to 1,250 won monthly. All principals, directors, masters, and teachers of any level received 700 grams of rice daily. Dependents of these persons received 300 grams of meal daily. These rations had to be purchased at the rate of 70 won for every 8 kilograms of rice and 45 won for every 8 kilograms of meal.
8. Monthly deductions from the educators' salaries included 10 percent for income tax payments, 5 percent for compulsory savings, 3 percent for North Korean Labor Party membership fees, 1 percent for Workers' Union fees, 1 percent for social insurance premiums, and 10 to 15 percent for airplane, tank, and warship fund drives.
9. In November 1951 KIM Ch'i-kwon, aged 38, a college graduate and a member of the North Korean Labor Party, was director of the Kosong-gun Middle School. Teachers at the school, all members of the Labor Party and graduates of middle school, included CHI Tok-hyon, aged 27; HAM Yong-sok, aged 21; KIM Tok-hi, aged 26; and PAK In-ch'ol, aged 27.

1. [] Comment. The evacuation on 10 October 1951 of civilian residents of Kosong (128-19, 38-40) (DT-4180) to an area north of Chongpyong-gun (127-11, 39-55) (CV-4520) []

2. [] Comment. A people's school is an elementary school which in June 1950 generally served 500 to 600 families. The primary schools here may refer to night primary schools for adults. Some information on education in North Korea []

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